

Application Serial No.: 09/695,830

Attorney Docket No.: 52493.000090

REMARKS

Claims 10-17, 19, 31-38 and 40 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-9, 18, 20-24, 26-30, 39 and 41-44 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter set forth therein, with claims 4 and 25 previously canceled.

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Based on the cancellation of such claims, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is obviated as to the present application. Further, the objection to the drawings in paragraph 5 of the Office Action is believed to be obviated by the cancellation of claims 43-44.

I. THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 10-17, 19, 31-38 and 40 are allowed. Applicant appreciates such indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant continues to traverse the various grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has canceled such rejected claims and proceeded with the claims indicated in the Office Action as allowed.

II. CONCLUSION

For the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact

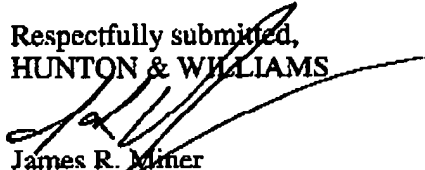
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Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

For any fees due in connection with filing this Response the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
HUNTON & WILLIAMS


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